

Lion of Judah Guidelines for Teachers

Teaching in a prayer meeting is different than teaching in a classroom. Here are a few things to remember as you prepare to teach.

● Teach to convert

A good teaching is one that brings about a change in your listener and calls them into a deeper experience of Jesus Christ. Knowledge, interest, entertainment, and solid doctrine are all important. But they must serve the overriding goal of conversion and not take the main place.

● Plan to teach for about 20 minutes

A little longer could be OK, but if you go too long you will lose your audience. Practice your talk so you know how long it is. Practice the ending well and give a short summary. If you have sharing questions or homework to suggest, have them ready. If you need them typed or printed do it ahead of time or ask for help.

● Organize your talk into a few main points

You should be able to describe each point of your talk in one, well thought out sentence. Use this for planning and use it again at the end for a summary. Make an outline of your talk and use it when you practice. You don't need to write the whole talk out and read it – but you can if that helps you.

● Teach only what you know

This sounds so obvious that you might wonder why it is included. Sometimes when we hear a really good talk, we want to give the same talk to our group. While this comes from a good desire, it usually falls flat. If you are frequently tempted to say “so and so said this” or “so and so said that – stop. The heart of a good teaching is your own personal witness of conversion and transformation. So make sure you witness to your own conversion and not someone else's. You should think and pray carefully about how you have changed. Conversion will come about by sharing how you experience Jesus in your struggle, not by implying you don't have to struggle.

● You are the best person to teach this right now

This doesn't necessarily mean you are the best teacher or even a good teacher. What it does mean is that you can contribute something no one else can – your own experience. You are unique, but your struggles and problems are part of the human condition and they enable you to touch hearts that others may not be able to touch. **Use your own testimony!**

● The Holy Spirit will help you

Make sure you take the time to ask the Holy Spirit for help. Not just as a short prayer at the beginning of your preparation, but take time to sit quietly before him through out. Ask for help in deciding what to say and not to say. Ask someone else for discernment when needed.

● Truth – Truth - Truth

But make sure the facts you use are correct. Just because something is printed in a book (or even a web site) doesn't make it right. Think critically about the facts you intend to use:

- How do we know that?
- Is it reasonable? When you find out something unbelievable, maybe you shouldn't believe it!
- Do I want to use a fact because it supports my point, or because it is true? Sometimes you will find out something during your research that is contrary to what you thought. Don't just ignore it if it goes against your message, find out for sure.

● Do a “Dry Run”

Plan to give the talk to a few people at least one week before you are scheduled. Coordinate with the teaching ministry. Ask for feedback.